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Message Text

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12
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DRAFTED BY ARA/CCA:EPSMITH:AM:DGANTZ
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EA/J:DSMITH (DRAFT)
---------- 058312
R 270004Z NOV 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280750

STADIS//////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JA, CU, EMIN, US

SUBJECT: US POLICY ON JAPANESE PURCHASE OF CUBAN NICKEL

REF: TOKYO 16709

1. ON NOVEMBER 21 REPRESENTATIVE JAPANESE EMBASSY (HAYAKAWA) WASHINGTON REQUESTED DEPARTMENT LAWYER, IN LIGHT OF AUGUST 21 MODIFICATIONS OF US COMPANY SUBSIDIARY TRADE POLICY, TO PROVIDE US POSITION REGARDING POSSIBLE JAPANESE IMPORTATION OF CUBAN NICKEL. EMBASSY WAS ADVISED THAT WHILE POLICY CHANGE DIRECTLY AFFECTS ONLY TRADE WITH CUBA BY US SUBSIDIARIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES , NOT IMPORTS OF CUBAN GOODS OR THIRD COUNTRY GOODS WITH CUBAN COMPONENTS INTO US, US GOVERNMENT IS NOW REVIEWING THIS ENTIRE ISSUE. HE SAID THAT NO FINAL DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED AND DECLINED TO PREDICT WHEN OUR POLICY REVIEW MIGHT BE COMPLETED. HE FURTHER CAUTIONED THAT CHANGE IN US POLICY IN THIS AREA WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE THE CONFIDENTIAL

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OUTCOME. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT IMPORTATION INTO US OF

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PRODUCTS CONTAINING CUBAN NICKEL IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE IN LIGHT OF THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S CONFISCATION OF THE UNITED STATES-OWNED NICARO NICKEL PLANT FOR WHICH NO COMPENSATION HAD EVER BEEN PAID.

2. MR. HAYAKAWA HAD RAISED ISSUE OF POSSIBLE CUBAN NICKEL IMPORTS IN JUNE AND WAS BRIEFED BY DEPARTMENT ON DIFFICULTIES WE HAVE HAD WITH FRANCE AND ITALY OVER INCLUSION OF CUBAN NICKEL IN STAINLESS STEEL PRODUCTS THESE TWO COUNTRIES WISHED TO EXPORT TO THE UNITED STATES. AGREED PROCEDURES HAD BEEN WORKED OUT WITH FRENCH FOR CERTIFYING THAT CERTAIN FRENCH FIRMS DO NOT USE CUBAN NICKEL IN EXPORTS TO US. WE SUGGESTED AT THIS TIME THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REVIEW A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT WITH JAPANESE FIRMS IF JAPANESE MADE A PROPOSAL. NO PROPOSAL WAS SUBMITTED.

3. WITH CHANGES IN THIRD COUNTRY RESTRICTIONS AFFECTING TRADE WITH CUBA, DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING POSSIBILITIES OF MODIFYING OUR POSITION TO PERMIT INCLUSION OF VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF CUBAN ORIGIN PRODUCTS IN THIRD COUNTRY EXPORTS TO US. HOWEVER, THE US POSITION WILL NECESSITATE INTER-AGENCY CONSULTATIONS AND WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION NOW TO GO BEYOND STATING TO THE JAPANESE THAT THE MATTER IS UNDER REVIEW. END KISSINGER

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